

Wycombe Hammer A Poor Barking Side

By ARGUS.

Barking 0,

Wycombe Wanderers 6.

AFTER too many setbacks and false alarms, it is tempting to describe this East End goals frolic as a superb Wycombe Wanderers' performance, but to do so would be to ignore the obvious. Clouding the justifiable Wycombe jubilation was the fact that Barking—winners of only three out of 27 league games—are a poor Isthmian side, almost as bad as their arid, grassless, rock-hard pitch.

A collection of enthusiastic kick-and-rush novices, Barking somehow managed to hold Wycombe to 2-0 at the break. They paid for their temerity by being scientifically cut to ribbons in the second half.

Wycombe did a splendid piece of cold-blooded butchery with the minimum of fuss. The ball was as elusive as a feather but Cliff Trott killed it dead three times in the second half to slam home a short-range hat-trick barrage. He made it look so easy.

Trott—injured on his previous two outings to the Vicarage-road ground—laid the hoodoo with a vengeance. In his three come-back games he has scored six goals and has doubled the vitality of the Wycombe attack.

Sharing the credit for the rise in the Wanderers goals standard is inside-right Ivor Ashby, whose straightforward tactics are contrasting so effectively with the roaming and plotting of Paul

Bates. Ivor helped himself to two more goals.

After a bad quarter-of-an-hour midway through the first half, the Wanderers defence had a tranquil time. The experiment of playing full-back Dennis Atkins at left-half will certainly need a tougher test than this.

It is equally impossible to pass judgement on the debut of 19-years-old left-back Alistair Lewis, save to say that he looked nothing less than 100 per cent cool throughout and was never in real trouble.

Centre-half John Fisher had the toughest task against his old rival Vic Harrison. But even the dashing Vic seemed to grow tired of the incompetence of his colleagues later in the game.

Puffs of dust arose whenever the ball touched the ground and no-one envied the goalkeepers. Barking goalkeeper Eric Bird was scooping the ball out of his net within 60 seconds, Alan Murphy scoring a fine goal after Ashby had headed against the post from Michael Rockell's centre.

Coloured Barking inside-right Jimmy Cook forced Ken Brown to make one diving save and then nearly equalised when John Beck mishit a back pass. But these were rare incidents in a succession of Barking goalmouth escapes.

Rockell and Trott had shots charged down in the nick of time before Ashby collected a long Wycombe clearance and steered the ball into the net for a second goal.

The Wanderers forwards were irresistible after the break and Trott revelled in the liberty he was allowed. His three goals all ended brisk bouts of passing. To complete a debacle Ashby headed a sixth goal from Murphy's long cross.